

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method for suppressing mold formation on a surface comprising:

applying to the surface to be protected from mold, a dispersion comprising:

a dispersant and

hydrophobic particles having

a mean particle diameter ranging from 0.005 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ,

an irregular fine structure ranging from 1 nm to 1,000nm,

wherein elevations on the particles have an aspect ratio greater than 1; and

removing the dispersant;

wherein said dispersion is applied to a stone, bricks, concrete or plaster surface; or

wherein said dispersion is applied to the surface of a sandwich-type plaster board, joints, paper-based wall papers, or mineral paint.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14, wherein elevations on the particles have an aspect ratio greater than 1.5

~~wherein said dispersion is applied to the surface of a building material.~~

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion is applied to a stone, concrete or plaster surface.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion is applied to the surface of a sandwich-type plaster board, joints, paper-based wall papers, or mineral paint.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14, ~~wherein said dispersion is applied~~ further comprising applying said dispersion to a plastic surface.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion is applied by spraying it on the surface.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersant is removed by evaporation or volatilization.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the dispersant, of the hydrophobic particles.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises at least one type of hydrophobic particles selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, titanium oxide, and zirconium oxide; or mixtures thereof.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises hydrophobic particles that are silicic acid or pyrogenic silicic acid.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises hydrophobic particles that are silicic acid or pyrogenic silicic acid that have been treated with at least one agent selected from the group consisting of fluoroalkylsilanes, alkylsilanes, perfluoroalkylsilanes, and alkylsilazanes.

Claim 25 New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises at least one type of hydrophobic particles selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene homopolymer and polytetrafluoroethylene copolymers; or mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the dispersant comprises ethanol, isopropanol, or a combination thereof.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A composition which inhibits mold growth when applied to a surface, comprising:

from 0.1 to 10% by weight of hydrophobic particles having a mean particle diameter of from 0.005 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , an irregular fine structure ranging from 1 nm to 1,000nm, wherein elevations on the particles have an aspect ratio greater than 1;

and

an organic dispersant;

wherein said composition has been applied to a stone, concrete, bricks, or plaster surface; or

wherein said dispersion has been applied to the surface of a sandwich-type plaster board, joints, paper-based wall papers, or mineral paint.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein the organic dispersant is an alcohol.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein the dispersant is ethanol, isopropanol, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersion comprises at least one type of hydrophobic particles selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, titanium oxide, and zirconium oxide; or mixtures thereof.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersion comprises hydrophobic particles that are silicic acid or pyrogenic silicic acid.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersion comprises hydrophobic particles that are silicic acid or pyrogenic silicic acid that have been treated with at least one agent selected from the group consisting of fluoroalkylsilanes, alkylsilanes, perfluoroalkylsilanes, and alkylidisilazanes.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersion comprises at least one type of hydrophobic particles selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene homopolymer and polytetrafluoroethylene copolymers; or mixtures thereof.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 27, which does not contain a fungicide.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A self-cleaning lotus-effect surface produced by applying the composition of claim 27 to [[a]] said surface and removing the organic dispersant.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The self-cleaning lotus-effect surface of claim [[34]] 35, wherein said composition does not contain hydrophobic titanium oxide particles.

Claim 37 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said hydrophobic particles have a mean particle diameter ranging from 0.005 to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 38 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said hydrophobic particles have an irregular fine structure ranging from 10 nm to 100 nm.

Claim 39 (New): The composition of claim 27, wherein said hydrophobic particles have a mean particle diameter ranging from 0.005 to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 40 (New): The composition of claim 27, wherein said hydrophobic particles have an irregular fine structure ranging from 10 nm to 100 nm.